A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The hon. Member is referred to G.O. No. 1671, Development, dated 14th November 1923, and to paragraph 79 of the Registrar's administration report for the year 1923–24, both of which have been placed on the Editors' Table.

(*c*) The hon. Member is referred to paragraph 5 of the Registrar's administration report for 1923–24.

(*d*) Progress in this as in all other co-operative matters varies from district to district. In well-developed areas, the object with which Honorary Assistant Registrars are appointed has to some extent been achieved. In the more backward areas, it is too early to look for definite results.

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state what the areas are which he considers well developed and why he thinks so ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—" From facts."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" What facts ? Is it from the number of societies or what ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—" From the way in which work is done."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" What are the ill-developed areas, Sir ? Is the hon. the Minister aware that the Provincial Co-operative Conference is against the continuance of this system of appointing honorary assistant registrars ? "

Holidays for co-operative societies and banks

*55 *Q.*—Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether co-operative societies and banks observe more holidays than are notified under the Negotiable Instruments Act ;

(*b*) and, if so, whether such practice has the approval of the Government ; and

(*c*) if not, whether the Government are inclined to bring co-operative societies and banks into a line with other banks ?

A.—(*a*) The Government have no definite information.

(*b*) & (*c*) The matter is one for the directors and shareholders of societies and banks to decide. The Government do not propose to interfere with their discretion.

Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO :—" I dare say that the Government is a constituent of the Imperial Bank, and the co-operative district banks are also constituents of the same. Does not the Government think that these banks should be brought into a line with the Imperial Bank ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—" I have already explained that it is a matter to be settled between the shareholders and the directors of the banks concerned and that it is not a matter for the Government to interfere."

Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO :—"When difficulties are felt by the Imperial Bank, are not the Government taking note of them and giving advice? Cannot the Government give the same advice to all concerned?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—"They do not consider that this is a matter in which they should interfere."

Fisheries.

The purchase of Krusadai island by Government.

*56 Q.—Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) when was the Krusadai island near Pamban purchased by the Government, and at what cost;

(b) what were the objects of the purchase of this island;

(c) whether the Government will be pleased to place on the table of this House the original proposals of Sir F. A. Nicholson, K.C.I.E., for purchasing this island;

(d) what were the conditions of purchase;

(e) how far the original objects of purchasing the island have been realized and what net expenditure has been incurred up to date;

(f) whether any buildings have been erected on the island and if so, at what cost;

(g) whether there were any unauthorized additional buildings constructed while the work was in progress and if so, the extra cost thus incurred;

(h) whether when the additional buildings were being constructed, the question of retention of the Marine Biologist had been engaging the attention of the Government; if so, whether the action of the officers in constructing them was not highly culpable and what disciplinary action has been taken against the officers concerned;

(i) to what use the island is now put and what annual running charges are incurred at present and whether these uses really justify the maintenance of the island at Government cost;

(j) whether there was any proposal from the Government of India to establish an All-India Biological station at this island and what became of the proposal;

(k) whether it is a fact that the Indian Science Congress and the University of Madras have desired the Government to hand over this island to them for carrying on research work and what action has been taken thereon; and

(l) whether the Government have received any other offers for the purchase of this island?

A.—(a), (b), (e) & (f) The hon. Member is referred to the answer furnished to question No. 420 at the meeting of the Council on the 5th March 1925.

(c) No.

(d) None.

(g) No unauthorized additional buildings were constructed. Certain improvements not provided for in the original estimates were carried out in anticipation of the sanction of Government at an additional cost of Rs. 1,350.